Title: Need to provide financial assistance to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh to ameliorate the lot of handloom weavers-Laid.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL) : The Andhra Pradesh State Government has sent proposals to the Centre requesting allocation of Rs.21.07 crore package to rejuvenate the APCO by introducing new and latest designs in handloom products, technical know-how, infrastructural facilities and so on.

The State Government has already drawn up long-term plans to support weavers as part of which pension had been sanctioned to about 25,000 weavers. The State Government was fully committed to redress weavers' grievances. The Union Government should also help in extending possible training programmes and rehabilitation measures for the weavers as many debt ridden Andhra Pradesh Weavers are taking extreme steps of committing suicide. I, therefore, appeal to the Union Textiles Minister to come to the rescue of the weavers, specially of Andhra Pradesh and allocate Rs.21.07 crores package immediately.